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be given at once, and *in no case should they be allowed to stand for more than 20 minutes. If any haziness or clouding occurs, do not use.*

E. *Dosage.*—The initial dose should be small. The average dose is 0.6 gm., but in this respect each patient should receive individual consideration.

VI. *Administration.*—Pay particular attention to preparation of patient and to rate of injection, which must not exceed the introduction of more than 0.1 gm. of neoarsphenamine in 30 seconds, whether the gravity or the syringe method be employed. The rate may be almost perfectly controlled by the use of the gravity apparatus specified. With the syringe method the use of the small sized needle specified and the short rubber tube connector will enable one to inject sufficiently slowly without great difficulty, although greater care is necessary than with the gravity method. The rate should be frequently checked with a timepiece.

VII. *Reactions.*—See detailed instructions.

THE COLLEGE STUDENT AND VENEREAL DISEASES.

WHAT COLLEGE PRESIDENTS SAY.

Is venereal infection decreasing among college students? Rather definite answers to this query came as an interesting sidelight in response to a recent effort on the part of the United States Bureau of Education and the United States Public Health Service to obtain from college presidents their opinions with respect to the prevailing attitudes and practices of college men in sexual matters. Nearly one hundred college and university executives were asked the following questions:

In your experience does it seem that the student's attitude toward sexual promiscuity, or his habits and practices have undergone any considerable change during the past 15 years? If so, what is the direction of the change and to what forces do you attribute it? ¹

In all, 65 replies were received, embracing comments on a variety of matters, such as the apparent growing familiarity between the sexes, the effect of the war and contact with European standards upon sex conduct, the prevailing fashions in dress, the modern dance forms, the conversational habits of students, and the prevalence of venereal diseases and the attitude of college men toward them. These various problems of conduct, directly or remotely related to sex, are discussed, as might be expected, from many points of view. What one college president sees as a sign of relaxed moral standards another views simply as a symptom of an effort to place sex relation-

¹ The questions, it will be noted, make no reference to venereal diseases.

ships on an intelligent and enlightened basis. The effect of the war comes in for a good deal of discussion, with some diversity of opinion as to its ultimate effect upon sex standards. On one topic alone is there unanimity of opinion—that of venereal diseases. The fact that practically 40 per cent of the replies specifically mention venereal diseases signifies the importance attached to them by college presidents as a problem of conduct.

The college student of to-day realizes more fully than his brother of an earlier day the dangers and severe risks to health involved in promiscuous sex relations, and as a consequence is much more circumspect in his conduct and has, on the whole, a more enlightened attitude toward all sex matters. Such, at least, is the consensus of opinion among college presidents. That this change in attitude and practice is not due altogether to a higher "sense of morality" is frankly conceded by a number of presidents, and there are a few who seem to regret that "hygiene" rather than "morals" has been the dominant motive in the change that appears to have taken place in the past 15 or 20 years.

In explaining the forces responsible for this change the presidents specify a number of factors which they consider as paramount in influencing the sex life of the young man in college. The effective forces, loosely classified, are, first, education, both popular and academic, in matters of health, with an increasing emphasis on the hygiene of sex and venereal diseases; second, a more active concern on the part of the college in the physical well being of its students, including increased opportunities for physical training and play activity; third, improvement in environmental factors, such as the elimination of the saloon and the suppression of prostitution; and, fourth, the influence of coeducation upon the "atmosphere" of the college.

A number of presidents confess that they are more or less at a loss to specify the facts upon which their judgment is based. A few of them compare conditions to-day with conditions in their own student days and find the comparison favorable to the present. The most encouraging criterion, however, and the one chiefly relied upon in support of the belief that college students to-day are living a cleaner and healthier sex life than heretofore, is the evident decline of venereal infection among this particular group.

"A physician in this town who has much to do with the college students assured me that there was far less venereal disease to-day than 25 years ago," comments one president. He attributes some of this improvement to "instruction in these matters given in our schools and colleges." The hygiene department of a large eastern college, at the request of its president, reports: "In our examination

of 3,500 or 4,000 boys each half year, we do not see more than three or four cases of acute venereal disease a year." A president of a southern university, in expressing the opinion that there has been considerable improvement in the average student's attitude toward sexual promiscuity, states: "One fact on which I count heavily is that the college physician steadily reports to me that cases of venereal diseases in the student body have become extremely rare, and he is in a position to speak with some definiteness on the subject." Another president (Middle West) notes that the "movement is in the right direction," attributing this tendency to various educational measures in the interest of sex hygiene, and concludes: "Although the number of students is constantly increasing, this particular form of student vice has shown a constant decrease. This I have not only from my own observation, but from the reports of the physicians and hospitals in the city." A New England college, through its president, reports that from all the evidence available, "the behavior of young men has steadily improved during the past 15 or 20 years," basing his judgment on "the information given me by the young men who have graduated during the 13 years of my incumbency * * * and from the advice received from our college physicians." In another letter there is reference to the fact that among the S. A. T. C. students examined during the war "very few were infected with venereal diseases." "In this college at least," writes another New England college executive, "there has been marked improvement during the last decade or two. There is little to support my general impression except that the results of our physical examination of the men students are highly satisfactory."

An especially noteworthy statement comes from a director of hygiene and public health who has had unusual opportunities for observation in three well-known State universities. He submits: "One thing I am certain of is that there has been a marked decrease in sexual diseases among college students during recent years. This has been distinctly noticeable. At the University of ——— last year more than 7,000 students were registered, and there were not more than 20 cases at any one time." He states further that his personal observations, based on the three schools with which he has been identified, are confirmed by the findings of school physicians in at least two other large universities, one on the Pacific coast and one in the State of New York. "This improvement is due chiefly to education," continues this director. "Students are learning more and more the danger of sexual diseases and as a consequence are avoiding them."

The president of a State university in the West gives as his judgment that "there has been a great gain in all matters pertaining to

social hygiene throughout the colleges of the country during the past 15 or 20 years." This judgment is based upon 30 years' experience with students of a western State. In regard to venereal diseases this same educator says: "I am sure that you will be interested in knowing that during the war period, of the R. O. T. C. at the University of ———, out of some 400 men examined by the Army physicians, only one case of venereal disease was found." In another reply—this one from the South—the statement is made: "So far as can be ascertained, there is practically no venereal disease among our students." A physician who for a number of years was connected with the hygiene and health department of a large eastern university says: "My impression is that there has been a marked reduction in sexual promiscuity and practice during the past 15 years, and I believe this is chiefly due to the better understanding by boys and girls of the relationship and the rights of a socially just conduct between them. The specific evidence I refer to is the record of medical examination and supervision of the student body at ———, in the year 1919–20. * * * We discovered only one history of syphilis and one of gonorrhea in original examinations, and a total of 10 cases (8 gonorrhea and 2 syphilis) during the year in the entire student body. From records of previous years it was evident that this constituted a very great reduction as compared with pre-war conditions."

The president of a western agricultural college asked the officer in charge of the health service of the college to make a statement of conditions there. The statement was as follows: "During my time here I have found only two cases of venereal diseases in this college, and, as you know, we give all students medical examination. It appears to me that there must have been great improvement along this line." An emphatic opinion is expressed by the president of one of the oldest colleges in the country: "I feel absolutely certain that the conditions of the college, as far as the attitudes and practices of the undergraduates are concerned, were never so good." This president, like many others, relies chiefly upon evidence bearing on the prevalence of venereal infection, as he remarks: "This fact is borne out and largely proved, I think, by the data in regard to venereal disease, the figures concerning which are always available to us. The proportion of men in college at the present time so afflicted is an almost negligible quantity, so far as per cent goes, as against conditions in my own time in college, when there was hardly any group within the college in which there would not be found men so afflicted."

In view of this recital of opinion, may the question, "Is venereal disease decreasing among college students?" be answered in the

affirmative? More than 20 college presidents say "Yes," and not one is found expressing a contrary opinion. A few of the presidents state that venereal diseases have always been negligible among their students, but the testimony of the large majority (of those who consider the matter) is that the last few years have witnessed a substantial and, in some instances, a very marked decrease in the number of venereal cases. It would not, of course, be in keeping with scientific accuracy to contend that the opinions set forth have the potency of facts. In but few instances have conditions in college or elsewhere been statistically verified. In fact, there are available very little reliable data respecting the prevalence of venereal diseases. The largest group thus far subjected to examination was the second million drafted men. Examination at mobilization camps showed that 5.6 per cent of these men had a venereal disease at the time of examination upon arrival at camp. This percentage includes only obvious cases of syphilis, gonorrhea, and chancroid. Wassermann examinations were not given. Furthermore, this percentage does not include those who had been cured prior to the day of examination, or who may have become infected later. Assuming, however, that 5.6 per cent fairly represents the percentage of venereal diseases among unselected groups of the population at any one time, it is obvious that the rate among college students, judged tentatively by the evidence at hand, is decidedly lower.

Whether college students as a group have always been superior in this regard to the general community, the present rise in the college standard being simply a reflection of higher community standards, or whether the college group as compared with the community actually occupies a *relatively* higher position to-day than a decade or more ago, are questions which, if answered, would throw considerable light upon the effectiveness of the movement for venereal-disease control. But leaving aside the refinements which these questions suggest, there is still the hopeful sign that college students are observing more and more the principles of hygienic living. How much of this progress may rightfully be attributed to the organized warfare against venereal diseases conducted by governmental (local, State, and National) and volunteer agencies, and how much to the more subtle campaign through the health and hygiene courses within the colleges, are also matters of speculation. Health education is undoubtedly having a telling effect. College students are avoiding, more and more, the contacts which menace health and undermine virility. This, in the light of what the college presidents say, appears reasonably certain.